



Summary

Overview

OVERVIEW

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey provides detailed data about migrants who have come to Australia over the past 10 years and how they have fared after their arrival. The topics covered by the survey are of strong interest to researchers and government departments. Of particular interest is how migrants settle into employment and whether their likelihood of finding work relates to their visa type, education, language skills or other characteristics.

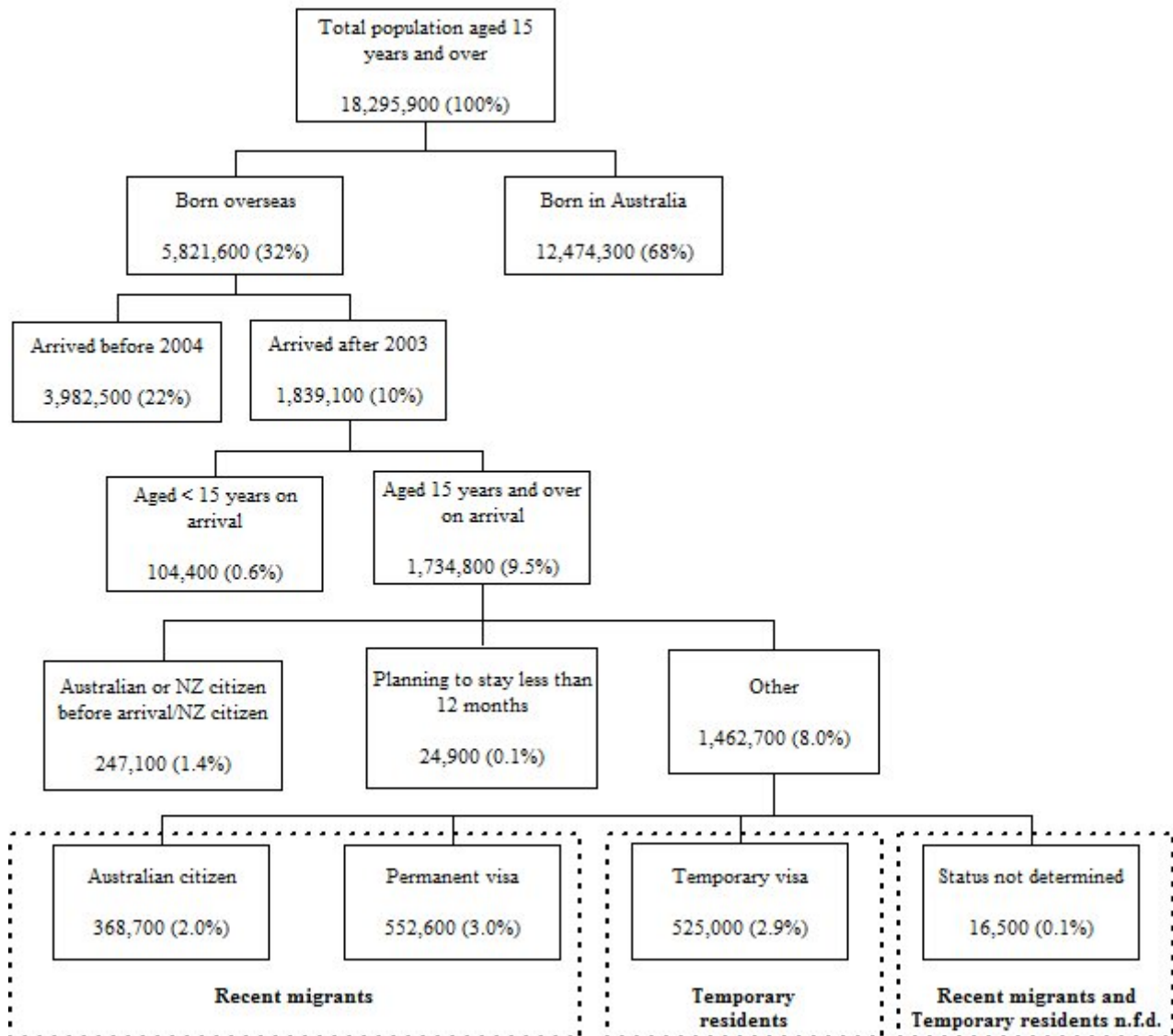
In November 2013, the in-scope Australian population aged 15 years and over was 18.3 million people. Of these people, an estimated 5.8 million (32%) were born overseas. (Table 1)

Around 1.7 million of the people born overseas arrived in Australia to live after 2003 and were aged 15 years and over on arrival. This represents 9.5% of the total population aged 15 years and over. Of these, 247,100 were an Australian or New Zealand citizen before arrival or held New Zealand citizenship as at November 2013, while 24,900 were planning to stay in Australia for less than 12 months. These two groups are not covered in this analysis. The remaining 1.5 million people were recent migrants or temporary residents, who are the focus of this commentary. Of these:

- 63% were recent migrants (552,600 people had a permanent visa and 368,700 people were now Australian citizens)
- 36% were temporary residents (525,000 people had temporary visas). (Table 1)

The following diagram shows the estimates for each of these groups.

PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Migration status as at November 2013



The majority (82%) of recent migrants were aged 20-44 years on arrival. Of the 525,000 temporary residents, 79% were aged 20-44 years on arrival. (Table 3)

Around three quarters (77%) of recent migrants and temporary residents were the main applicant on their visa application form when they first arrived in Australia. (Table 5)

There were 312,100 people who had a temporary visa on arrival to live in Australia and had since obtained a permanent visa or Australian citizenship by November 2013. Of these, 55% had obtained a permanent visa while 45% had obtained Australian citizenship. Of those who had obtained a permanent visa, 55% held a Skilled visa and 33% held a Family visa. (Table 8)

Labour Market Outcomes

LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES

Many migration policies and visa applications are underpinned by labour market needs. To

facilitate analysis of migrant labour market outcomes, respondents to the survey were asked about their employment prior to arrival in Australia, their current employment status and their occupation prior to and after arrival.

EMPLOYMENT

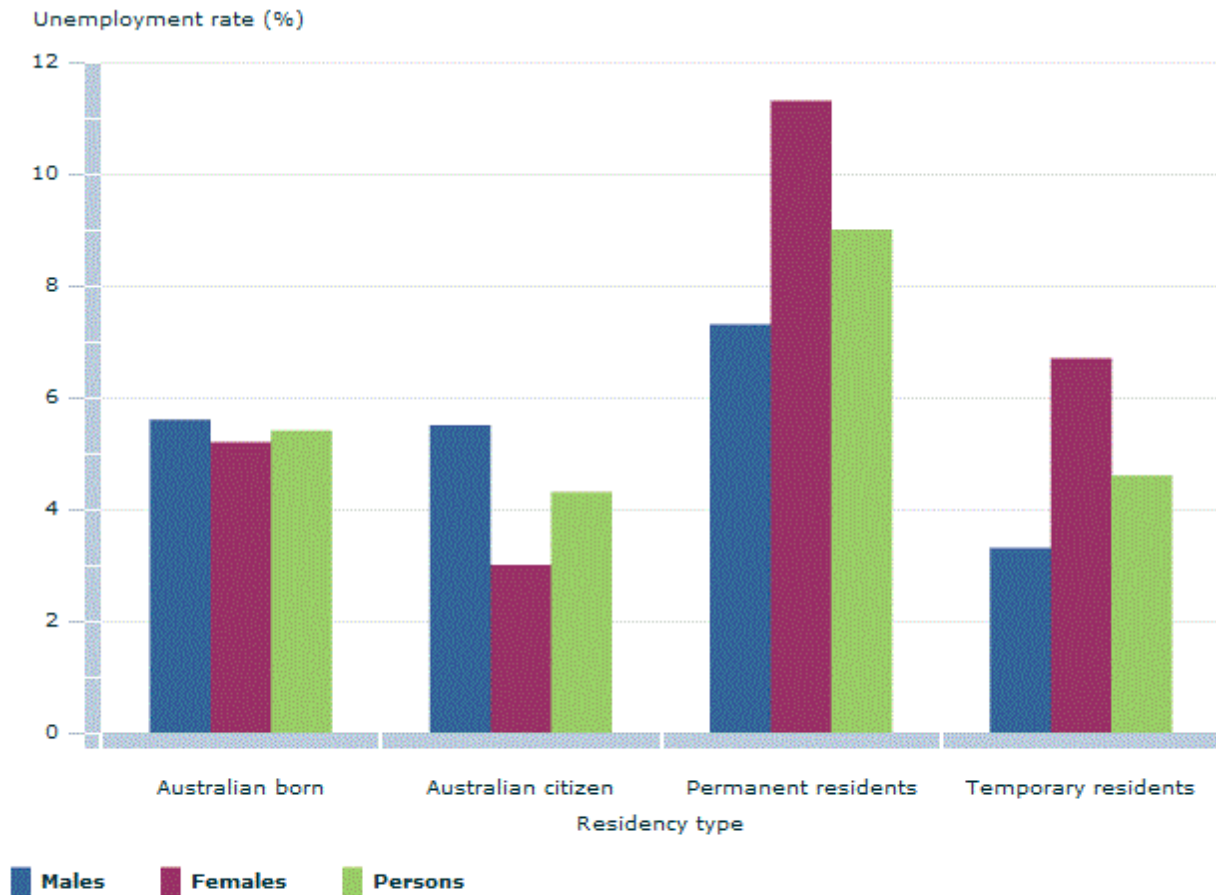
In November 2013, 65% of the 1.5 million recent migrants and temporary residents were employed. Migrants who had obtained Australian citizenship since arrival were more likely to be employed (73%) than migrants on a permanent visa (60%) or temporary residents (64%). Of those employed, 75% of people with Australian citizenship were employed full time, compared with 74% on a permanent visa and 65% of temporary residents. (Table 2)

Around three quarters (73%) of Skilled migrants were employed as at November 2013. Of the Skilled migrants who were the main applicant, 85% were employed. About half (55%) of migrants on a Family visa and 70% of those on Other permanent visas were employed. Temporary residents on student visas were less likely to be employed than other temporary residents (55% compared with 72%). (Tables 2 and 17)

Overall, men were more likely to be employed full time than women: 92% of employed male migrants with Australian citizenship were employed full time compared with 57% of females; 86% of employed males on a permanent visa were employed full time compared with 58% of females; and 72% of employed male temporary residents were employed full time compared with 54% of females. (Table 2)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate for recent migrants was 7.0%, compared with 5.4% for people born in Australia. Migrants with Australian citizenship had an unemployment rate of 4.3%, temporary residents 4.6% and recent migrants on a permanent visa 9.0%. (Table 2 and Graph 1)



Source(s): [Unemployment rate by residency type as at November 2013 and sex-Graph 1](#)

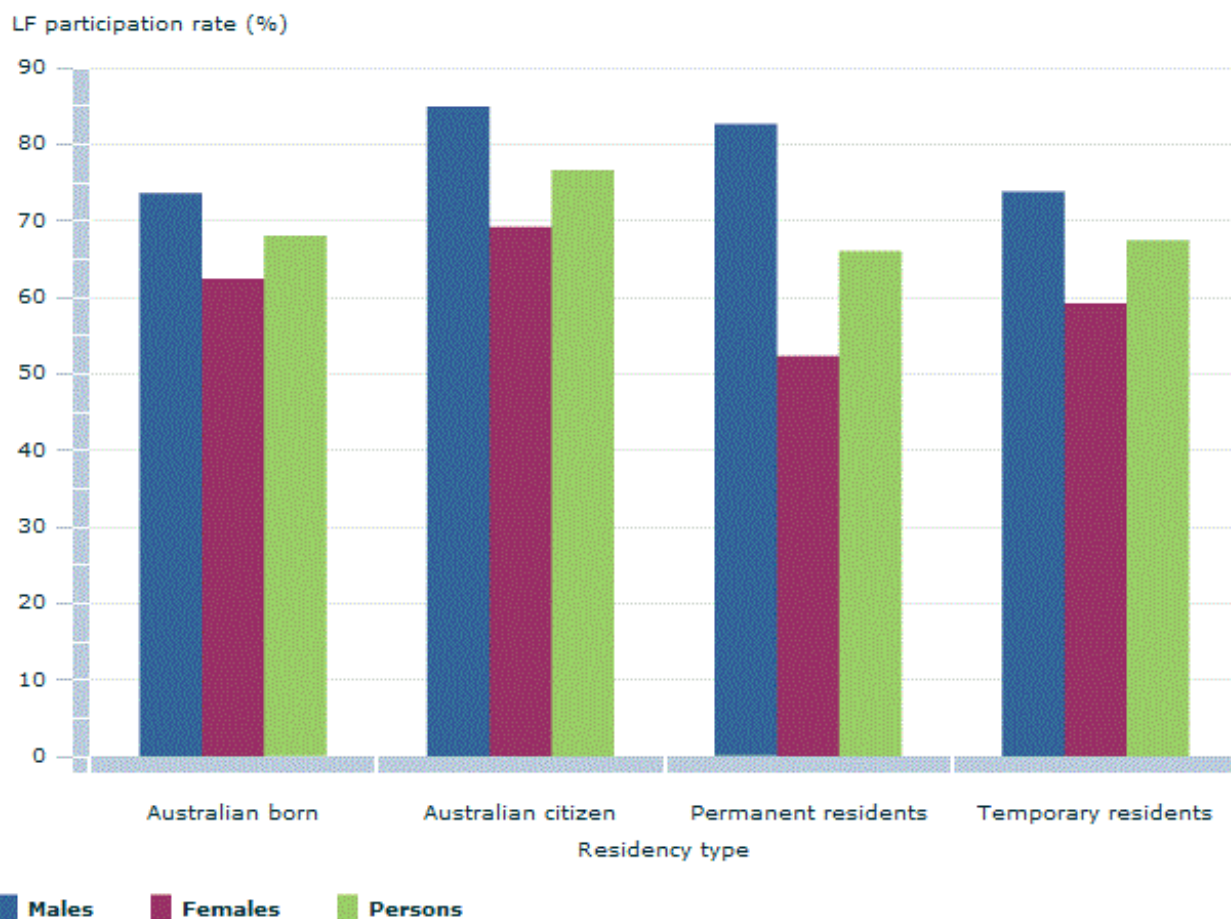
Source(s): Unemployment rate by residency type as at November 2013 and sex-Graph 1

Recent migrants and temporary residents who had obtained a non-school qualification since arrival had a lower unemployment rate than those who had not (3.5% compared with 7.4%). (Table 3)

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

The labour force participation rate for recent migrants and temporary residents was 69% in November 2013, compared with the total Australian rate of 66%. Migrants who had obtained Australian citizenship since arrival had a higher labour force participation rate (77%) than other recent migrants (66%) and temporary residents (67%). (Table 2)

Overall, men had a higher labour force participation rate than women: 85% for male migrants with Australian citizenship compared with 69% for females; 83% for males on a permanent visa compared with 52% for females; and 74% for males on a temporary visa compared with 59% for females. In comparison, for males and females born in Australia, the participation rates were 74% and 62% respectively. (Table 2 and Graph 2)



Source(s): Labour force participation rate by residency type as at November 2013 and sex-Graph 2

The labour force participation rate was higher for those recent migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival (80%) than for those who had not (54%). It was also higher for recent migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification since arrival (85%) than for those who had not (64%). (Table 3)

FINDING EMPLOYMENT

Around 11% of recent migrants who have had a job in Australia arrived with their first job arranged, whereas 43% spent up to three months looking for their first job. (Table 15)

An estimated 43% of recent migrants who have had a job since arrival received some form of help to find their first job. Of these people:

- 70% had help from friends or family
- 20% had help from Centrelink, a Job Network agency or Job Services Australia provider
- 6.4% had help from a migrant association or refugee settlement organisation/church or community group
- 6.1% had help from an educational institution. (Table 15)

Around one third (34%) of recent migrants who have had a job in Australia reported experiencing some difficulty finding their first job. Of these people:

- 61% reported a lack of Australian work experience or references
- 33% experienced language difficulties
- 28% reported a lack of local contacts or networks

- 15% reported no jobs or vacancies in their locality or preferred occupation
- 15% said their skills or qualifications were not recognised. (Table 15)

Education

EDUCATION

The education levels of recent migrants and temporary residents can have a significant impact on their settlement outcomes during their first 10 years in Australia. Respondents were asked about qualifications they had obtained prior to arrival in Australia and if they were recognised in Australia, whether their qualifications were used in their first job and whether they had obtained any qualifications since arrival.

RECENT MIGRANTS

An estimated 62% of recent migrants had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival in Australia. Of these, 72% had obtained a Bachelor Degree or higher, 15% had an Advanced Diploma or Diploma and 12% had a Certificate level qualification. (Table 3)

Almost one third (30%) of recent migrants had obtained a non-school qualification after arrival in Australia. Of these, an estimated 42% had obtained a Bachelor Degree or higher. (Table 3)

Of the recent migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival in Australia and who had a job since arriving in Australia, 52% had used their highest non-school qualification in their first job. Another 22% of these recent migrants had not used their highest non-school qualification in their first job, but had tried to find work more suited to their qualification. (Table 15)

One third (33%) of recent migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival had their overseas qualifications recognised in Australia. (Table 16)

SKILLED VISA HOLDERS

About 79% of skilled visa holders who were main applicants had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival and 64% of these were currently employed in a job using their qualification. Of those who had not used their qualification, 33% had tried to find work more suited to their qualifications. (Table 17)

TEMPORARY RESIDENTS

An estimated 61% of temporary residents had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival in Australia. Of these, 77% had a Bachelor Degree or higher. (Table 3)

One quarter (25%) of temporary residents had obtained a non-school qualification after arrival in Australia, with 47% of these completing a Bachelor Degree or higher. (Table 3)

Household income

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Household income is an important indicator of people's material standard of living because income, along with wealth, can be used to support consumption of goods and services, such as food, clothing, housing and leisure activities. Respondents were asked about the sources of their household income to gauge how strongly their material standard of living is connected to their employment outcomes.

Most recent migrants (83%) reported wages and salary as their main source of household income, whereas 11% said Australian or overseas government pensions or allowances were their main source of household income. A similar percentage (82%) of temporary residents reported wages and salary as their main source of household income, but temporary residents were less likely than recent migrants to report Australian or overseas government pensions or allowances as their main source of household income (5.2%). These data should be considered in the context of the eligibility criteria related to these pensions and allowances. (Table 10)

Most recent migrants (89%) who had arrived to live in Australia on a Skilled visa reported wages or salaries as the main source of household income, whereas 59% of migrants who had arrived on a Humanitarian visa said Australian or overseas government pensions or allowances were their main source of household income. (Table 10)

About this Release

Characteristics of Recent Migrants presents data on migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains results from the 2013 Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS), conducted throughout Australia in November 2013 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

2 CORMS provides data about the labour force status and other characteristics of recent migrants and temporary residents (see the Glossary for more information about these terms). Along with general demographic and employment characteristics of recent migrants and temporary residents, information available from the survey includes the type of visa held by recent migrants and temporary residents on arrival in Australia, and language spoken. In November 2013, the survey also collected data about education and employment before and after arriving in Australia, any difficulties experienced finding work since migration and proficiency in English.

3 CORMS is expected to be collected every three years, with the next iteration planned for November 2016. The ABS has previously conducted a survey of recent migrants in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2007 and 2010. While the ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires ongoing development to maintain the integrity of the data. There were a number of changes to the survey between 2004 and 2007. In 2004, migrants who had arrived in the previous 20 years were included in the survey. From 2007, only migrants who had arrived in the previous 10 years were included. There were also new and reworded questions in the 2007 survey, with only minor development occurring for the 2010 and 2013 surveys. The name of the survey changed in 2010, from 'Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants' to 'Characteristics of Recent Migrants'. The changes since the 2004 survey mean results from the surveys conducted in 2004 and earlier are not comparable with the 2007, 2010 and 2013 surveys. However, the 2007, 2010 and 2013 survey results are comparable. Further details about these differences are outlined below in the Data Comparability section.

Concepts, Sources and Methods

4 The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2013 (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) which is available on the ABS website.

5 The publication Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

Scope

6 The scope of CORMS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over who were usual residents of private dwellings, excluding:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Census of Population and Housing and estimated resident populations
- overseas residents in Australia and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

7 In addition, this supplementary survey excluded people living in Indigenous communities in Australia and in non-private dwellings such as hotels, university residences, boarding schools, hospitals, retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities, and prisons.

Coverage

8 The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey scope. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

DATA COLLECTION

9 Information was mainly collected through interviews conducted over a two-week period in November 2013. Interviews were conducted face-to-face or over the telephone, using computer assisted interviewing, while some respondents were able to provide certain information over the Internet via a self-completed form. In the selected dwellings, after the LFS had been fully completed for each person in scope, information was obtained from one responsible adult who was present on each visa application in the household. For example, consider a household with three usual residents where two were listed together on one visa application and the other person was listed on a separate visa application. In this case, two people in the household would have provided information, one for each visa application that they were covered by.

10 In December 2012, the ABS began a trial of online electronic data collection. In this trial, respondents in one rotation group (i.e. one-eighth of the LFS sample) were offered the option of self completing their LFS questionnaire over the Internet instead of via a face-to-face or telephone interview. In November 2013, when CORMS data were collected, of the seven rotation groups selected for CORMS, 100% of respondents in three rotation groups and 50% of respondents in the other four rotation groups were offered the option of self completing their LFS questionnaire over the Internet.

11 As supplementary surveys such as CORMS are restricted to seven-eighths of the LFS sample, the option of online self-completion of the LFS was offered to the equivalent of over two-thirds of the sample available for CORMS. Those households who completed the LFS online and contained usual residents who were a recent migrant or temporary resident had the rest of their information collected in a face-to-face or telephone interview. About 9% of the complete interviews obtained from recent migrants and temporary residents had taken up the option to do the LFS online. While those respondents who chose to complete the LFS online may have different characteristics to those who undertook the survey via face-to-face or telephone interview, the ABS has not detected any significant impacts on estimates due to the introduction of online collection. However, the ABS will continue to monitor any impacts through a measurement strategy and report these in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). For further information see the article Transition to Online Collection of the Labour Force Survey in the April, 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

Sample Size

12 Approximately 94% of the selected households were fully responding to the CORMS survey. In relation to persons, 2,773 complete interviews were obtained from recent migrants and temporary residents.

ESTIMATION METHOD

Weighting

13 Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each enumerated person. The weight is a value which indicates how many people in the population are represented by the sample person.

14 The first step in calculating weights for each unit is to assign an initial weight, which is the inverse of the probability of the unit being selected in the survey. For example, if the

probability of a person being selected in the survey was 1 in 300, then the person would have an initial weight of 300 (that is, they represent 300 people).

Population Benchmarks

15 The initial weights are then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population, referred to as benchmarks. The population included in the benchmarks is the survey scope. This calibration process ensures that the weighted data conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population described by the benchmarks rather than to the distribution within the sample itself. Calibration to population benchmarks helps to compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of people which may occur due to either the random nature of sampling or non-response.

16 For this survey two sets of benchmarks were used, and were derived from the November 2013 LFS. The first set of benchmarks specified the population distribution in designated categories of state or territory of usual residence by area of usual residence by sex by age group. The second set was in designated categories of state or territory of usual residence by migrant status.

17 Generally, revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS following the final rebasing of population estimates to the latest five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, or when the need arises.

18 From February 2009, Labour Force Estimates have been compiled using population benchmarks based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Revisions were applied to the population benchmarks in the July 2010, November 2012 and April 2013 issues to take into account the latest available population estimates. The revision presented in the April 2013 issue is reflected in the estimates presented in this publication.

19 Changes to the LFS population benchmarks impact primarily on the magnitude of the LFS estimates (i.e. employment and unemployment) that are directly related to the underlying size of the population. For more details on population benchmarks, see the Explanatory Notes in Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) and for details about the revisions made, see the article in the November 2012 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). These revisions have not been applied to the results of previous Characteristics of Migrants Surveys.

Estimation

20 Survey estimates of counts of people are obtained by summing the weights of people with the characteristics of interest.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

21 All sample surveys are subject to error which can be broadly categorised as either sampling error or non-sampling error.

22 Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of people, and the value that would have been produced if all people in scope of the survey had been included. For more information, refer to the Technical Note.

23 Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. Sources of non-sampling error include non-response, errors in reporting by respondents or recording answers by interviewers, and errors in coding and

processing data. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error by careful design and testing of the questionnaire, training and supervision of interviewers, follow-up of respondents, and extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

DATA QUALITY

24 Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or via other methodologies.

DATA COMPARABILITY

Comparability of time series

25 Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Surveys conducted up to and including November 1996 were restricted to migrants who arrived in Australia after 1970, were aged 18 years and over on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status. For November 1999, the survey was restricted to migrants who arrived in Australia after 1980, were aged 18 years and over on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status. For November 2004, the survey included migrants aged 15 years and over on arrival, who arrived in Australia after 1984 who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. For November 2007, November 2010 and November 2013, the surveys have included migrants who arrived in Australia in the last 10 years (since 1997, 2000 and 2003 respectively), were aged 15 years and over on arrival, who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. In 2007, people born in New Zealand, those holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship before their arrival in Australia were excluded. In 2010 and 2013, people holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship before their arrival in Australia were excluded, while other people born in New Zealand were included.

26 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas have been added to the November 2013 survey (for more information see the Classifications section below). Data items related to the nominated occupation for initial visa, nominated occupation for current visa, whether nominated occupation for current visa is same as occupation as at November 2013, main difficulty finding first job in Australia and main difficulty finding job held as at November 2013 were not collected in November 2013.

27 It is impracticable to obtain information relating to the labour force status of people before migration according to the strict definitions used in the monthly LFS. It is for this reason that 'Has had a job since arriving in Australia' and 'Has not had a job since arriving in Australia' are used to describe previous labour force status, while 'employed', 'unemployed' and 'not in the labour force' are used to describe labour force status as at November 2013.

Comparability with other ABS data

28 Since CORMS is conducted as a supplement to the LFS, data items collected in the LFS are also available in CORMS. However, there are some important differences between the two surveys. The CORMS sample is a subset of the LFS sample (refer to the Data Collection section above) and had a response rate of 94% compared with a response rate of 95% for the LFS. Also, the scope of CORMS differs to the scope of the LFS (refer to the Scope and Coverage section above). Due to these differences between the samples,

CORMS data are weighted as a separate process to the weighting of LFS data. Differences may therefore be found in the estimates for those data items collected in the LFS and published as part of CORMS when compared with the same data items published in the November, 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

29 Additionally, estimates from CORMS may differ from the estimates for the same or similar data items produced from other ABS collections for several reasons. For example, all sample surveys are subject to different sampling errors so users should take account of the relative standard errors (RSEs) on estimates where comparisons are made. Differences may also exist in scope and/or coverage, reference periods reflecting seasonal variations, non-seasonal events that may have impacted on one period but not another, or because of underlying trends in the phenomena being measured.

30 Estimates from CORMS will differ from estimates from the Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID), 2011, which was released in February 2014. The ACMID, 2011 relates to people who responded to the 9 August 2011 Census of Population and Housing and had a permanent visa record on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's (DIBP) Settlement Data Base (SDB) with a date of arrival between 1 January 2000 and 9 August 2011. ACMID estimates were a result of integrating the data from these two data sources and calibrating the linked records to known population totals from the SDB.

Comparability with non-ABS sources

31 The DIBP is the main holder of stocks and flow data on migrants by visa (e.g. Migration Program). Due to differences in collection objectives and definitions, data from CORMS are not comparable with DIBP data. For more information on the Migration Program and DIBP statistics, refer to the DIBP website.

CLASSIFICATIONS

Country of birth

32 Country of birth data are classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition (cat. no. 1269.0).

Industry

33 Industry data are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0) (cat. no. 1292.0).

Occupation

34 Occupation data are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classifications of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, Revision 1 (cat. no. 1220.0).

Education

35 Education data are classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

36 Level of Education is defined as a function of the quality and quantity of learning involved in an educational activity. There are nine broad levels, 15 narrow levels and 64 detailed levels. For definitions of these levels, see the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).

37 Field of Education is defined as the subject matter of an educational activity. Fields of education are related to each other through the similarity of subject matter, through the broad purpose for which the education is undertaken, and through the theoretical content which underpins the subject matter. There are 12 broad fields, 71 narrow fields and 356 detailed fields. For definitions of these fields, see the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).

Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

38 SEIFA is a suite of four summary measures that have been created from 2011 Census information. Each index summarises a different aspect of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area. The indexes provide more general measures of socio-economic status than is given by measures such as income or unemployment alone.

39 Each index ranks geographic areas across Australia in terms of their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The four indexes each summarise a slightly different aspect of the socio-economic conditions in an area. It is important to note that the indexes are assigned to areas and not to individuals. They indicate the collective socio-economic characteristics of the people living in an area. The respondents in CORMS have been assigned the 2011 Census SEIFA for the area in which they live. Consequently, they may not necessarily have the same personal characteristics that describes the socio-economic status of their geographic area as a whole.

40 The indexes and supporting material are found in the publication Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 2033.0.55.001).

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

41 A Summary of Findings is available from the Summary tab. Unless otherwise specified, differences between data items highlighted in the Summary of Findings are statistically significant. See the Technical Note for further details.

42 A Data Cube (spreadsheet) containing all tables produced for this publication is available from the Downloads tab. The Data Cube presents tables of estimates and proportions, and their corresponding RSEs. As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

43 For users who wish to undertake more detailed analysis of the data, the survey microdata will be available through the online TableBuilder product. TableBuilder is a tool for creating tables and graphs and is expected to be released around October 2014. For further details refer to the Microdata Entry Page.

44 Special tabulations are available on request. Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, tabulations can be produced from the survey incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These can be provided in printed or electronic form. All enquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

45 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.

NEXT SURVEY

46 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in 2016.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

47 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily upcoming release advise on the website that details products to be released in the week ahead. The web page Topics @ a Glance - Migrant and Ethnicity also contains a range of information and useful references relating to migrant and ethnicity statistics.

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Australian citizen

Being an Australian citizen formalises a person's membership of the Australian community. It entitles a person to live permanently in Australia, hold an Australian passport and do such things as vote to elect Australia's governments, stand for parliament, work in the Public Service and serve in the armed forces. A person may acquire Australian citizenship in a number of ways, for example, by birth, adoption, descent, resumption or granting of Australian citizenship (naturalisation). Migrants no longer require a visa once citizenship is granted.

Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system; that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001, ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classifications of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0).

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

Effective from July 2011, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) developed by the ABS provides the framework for the collection and dissemination of statistics. See Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater

Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

Bachelor Degree or higher

Includes Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate and Postgraduate Degree.

Balance of state/territory

Comprises the balance of each state/territory not included in Capital City. See Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

Capital city

Refers to Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA) as defined by the ASGS. The GCCSAs represent the socio-economic extent of each of the eight State and Territory capital cities. The whole of the ACT is included in the GCCSA. See Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

Certificate

Includes Certificate I/II/III/IV and Certificate not further defined.

Country of birth

Country of birth has been classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition (cat. no. 1269.0).

Employed

Persons who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers)
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers)
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement
 - on strike or locked out
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full-time

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Employed part-time

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Had a job since arrival

Includes persons who currently have a job or who had a job at some time since their arrival.

Industry

Industry data is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0) (cat. no. 1292.0).

Labour force

Persons who were in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Labour force participation rate

For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of all persons aged 15 years and over in the same group.

Level not determined

Level not determined includes inadequately described responses or where no responses were given.

Level of highest non-school qualification

Level of highest non-school qualification identifies the highest qualification a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study, but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) Level of Education classification.

Main applicant

The 'main applicant' is generally the person whose skills or proposed activities in Australia are assessed by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection as part of their visa application. They will usually have been specifically identified on the application form as the 'main applicant'.

Main English-speaking countries

The list of main English-speaking countries (MESC) provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia has historically received significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America. It is important to note that being from a non-main English-speaking country does not imply a lack of proficiency in English.

Main field of non-school qualification

Main field of non-school qualification is defined as the subject matter of the qualification. It is categorised according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0) Field of Education classification.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be obtained concurrently with school qualifications.

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Occupation

Occupation data is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, Revision 1 (cat. no. 1220.0).

Permanent visa

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to live in Australia permanently.

Recent migrant

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 2003, was aged 15 years or over on arrival, was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, does not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and has permanent Australian resident status.

Reference week

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

Secondary applicant

A person whose visa was granted on the basis of being the family member (e.g. spouse, dependent child) of a person who qualified for a visa. They will have been identified on the visa application as a secondary or an 'other' applicant with the person who met the visa criteria being specifically identified on the visa application as the 'main applicant'.

Temporary resident

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 2003, was aged 15 years or over on arrival, was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, does not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and has a temporary visa.

Temporary visa

The permission or authority granted by Australia for a foreign national to travel to Australia

and stay up to a specified period of time. Temporary entrants for this survey include:

- tourists
- students
- business people
- people with specialist skills, such as managers, academics and medical practitioners
- people who make a social or cultural contribution to the community, such as entertainers, media and film staff, sports people, religious workers, visiting academics and public lecturers
- people who contribute to the development of international relations, such as participants in exchange programs and working holiday makers.

Type of visa as at November 2013 (current visa)

The visa the respondent held at the time of interview, that allowed them to stay in Australia. Categories for type of visa as at November 2013 are:

- Australian citizen - Persons who arrived to live in Australia on a permanent or temporary visa and have since obtained Australian citizenship
- Permanent Skilled - Skilled migrants are selected on the basis of their age, skills and their ability to quickly make a contribution to the Australian economy. Includes Independent, Family or government sponsored, and Employer sponsored visas
- Permanent Family - Includes Partner, Child and Parent visas
- Permanent Humanitarian - Includes Special Humanitarian Program and Refugee visas
- Permanent Other/n.f.d. - Includes all other permanent visa categories or where the type of permanent visa could not be determined
- Temporary Student - Temporary student visas are granted to people studying or seeking study, training or skills development in Australia, and are planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more
- Temporary Other/n.f.d. - Includes tourists, working holiday makers and visitors planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more, or where the type of temporary visa could not be determined.

A respondent's visa type as at November 2013 may be different from the type of visa held on arrival to live in Australia. This may be the result of a respondent obtaining Australian citizenship, or the respondent's successful onshore application to another visa type after arrival.

Type of visa on arrival to live in Australia (initial visa)

The visa the respondent held when they first arrived in Australia to live that allowed them to come to Australia. Categories for type of visa on arrival to live in Australia are as for 'Type of visa as at November 2013'.

A respondent's type of visa on arrival to live in Australia may differ from the type of visa held as at November 2013. This may be the result of a respondent obtaining Australian citizenship, or the respondent's successful onshore application to another visa type after arrival.

Unemployed

Persons who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week or

- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unemployment rate

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousands
%	percent
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
Aust.	Australia
CORMS	Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MESC	Main English-speaking countries
NSW	New South Wales
n.f.d.	not further defined
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS) provides a range of information about people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 2003, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. People holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship before their arrival in Australia were excluded, while other people born in New Zealand were included. The type of information collected included socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field, both before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia) and migration information (such as visa category and residency status on arrival to live in Australia and as at November, 2013). In addition, the survey collects information regarding language spoken on arrival in Australia and proficiency in English both on arrival in Australia and as at November 2013.

Information from CORMS will be used by a wide range of public and private sector agencies, in particular the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Survey was first conducted in 1984 and triennially thereafter up to 1999. It was collected again in 2004, 2007, 2010 and the latest survey was in 2013. The name of the survey was changed in 2007 to Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, and again in 2010, to Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey to better reflect the scope of the survey. Data from the survey are released approximately six months after the completion of enumeration.

ACCURACY

CORMS is designed to provide reliable estimates at the national level and for each state and territory. The number of completed interviews (after taking into account scope and coverage exclusions) was 42,308, of which 2,773 were recent migrants or temporary residents. This sample was achieved by obtaining a response rate of 94% from selected households.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Only estimates (numbers and proportions) with relative standard errors (RSEs) less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% have been included and are annotated to indicate they are subject to high sampling variability and should be used with caution. In addition, estimates with RSEs

greater than 50% have also been included and annotated to indicate they are considered too unreliable for general use.

COHERENCE

The ABS has previously conducted a survey of recent migrants in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2007 and 2010. While the ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey; sound survey practice requires ongoing development to maintain the integrity of the data. There were a number of changes to the survey between 2004 and 2007. In 2004 migrants who had arrived in the previous 20 years were included in the survey. However, from 2007 only migrants who had arrived in the previous 10 years were included. There were also new and reworded questions in the 2007 survey, with only minor development occurring for the 2010 and 2013 surveys. This means results from the surveys conducted in 2004 and earlier are not comparable with the 2007, 2010 and 2013 surveys. However, the 2007, 2010 and 2013 survey results are comparable. For a more detailed discussion on the differences between surveys, see the Explanatory Notes.

Data were compared to non-ABS sources of information that were available. Comparisons conducted by the ABS showed that the data from this survey are not directly comparable with other available sources due to differences in definitions, scope and collection methods.

INTERPRETABILITY

The summary publication, *Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, 2013* (cat. no. 6250.0), contains a collection of tables with footnoted data to aid with the interpretation of the survey results. The Summary of Findings comprises analytical text and graphics to support interpretation of the publication tables. The Explanatory Notes, a Technical Note and a Glossary provide additional information on the data, terminology, classifications and other associated technical aspects.

ACCESSIBILITY

Tabulated data and associated RSEs are available in spreadsheet format and can be accessed from the Downloads tab.

Data from this survey will be accessible in the TableBuilder environment, enabling users to create tabulated output as required. For further details, refer to the Microdata pages on the ABS website.

Data are also available on request. Note that detailed data can be subject to high RSEs which in some cases may result in data being confidentialised.

For further information about these or related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Data Quality (Technical Note)

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

1 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings (or households) was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

2 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate:

$$RSE\% = \left(\frac{SE}{estimate} \right) \times 100$$

3 RSEs for the 2013 Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey have been calculated using the Jackknife method of variance estimation. This involves the calculation of 30 'replicate' estimates based on 30 different sub samples of the obtained sample. The variability of estimates obtained from these sub samples is used to estimate the sample variability surrounding the estimate.

4 RSEs of all of the estimates in this publication are included in the Data Cube released as part of the publication and are available from the Downloads tab of the publication.

5 Only estimates (numbers and proportions) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% are presented with a cell comment to indicate they are subject to high sample variability and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are presented with a cell comment to indicate that they are considered too unreliable for general use. All cells in the Data Cube with an RSE greater than 25% contain a comment indicating the size of the RSE. These cells can be identified by a red indicator in the corner of the cell. The comment appears when the mouse pointer hovers over the cell.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

6 Standard errors can be calculated using the estimates (counts or proportions) and the corresponding RSEs. For example, Table 1 shows the estimated number of recent migrants in Australia as at November 2013 was 921,300. The RSE table corresponding to the estimates in Table 1 (included in the Data Cube) shows the RSE for this estimate is 3.4%. The SE is calculated by:

SE of estimate

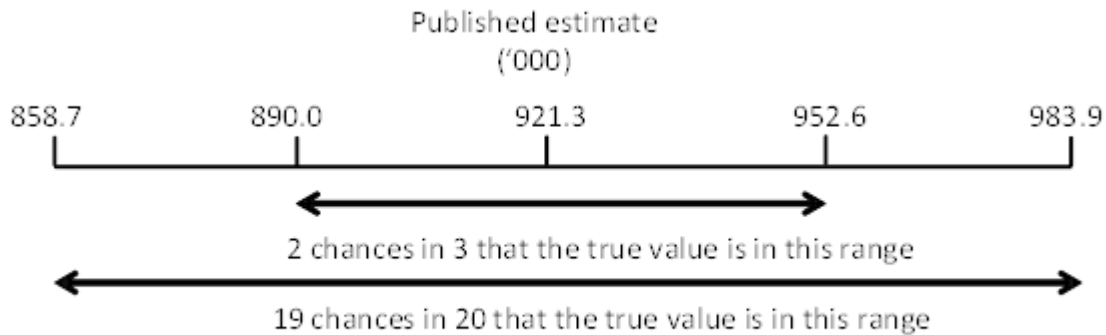
$$= \left(\frac{RSE\%}{100} \right) \times estimate$$

$$= 0.034 \times 921,300$$

$$= 31,300 \text{ (rounded to nearest 100)}$$

7 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the actual number of recent migrants as at November 2013 was in the range of 890,000 to 952,600 and about 19 chances in 20

that the value was in the range of 858,700 to 983,900. This example is illustrated in the diagram below:



PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

8 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when the numerator is a subset of the denominator.

$$RSE \left(\frac{x}{y} \right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

9 As an example, using estimates from Table 1, of the 18,295,900 people aged 15 and over, 1.3%, or 245,400 people, had a skilled visa as at November 2013. The RSE for 245,400 is 5.9% and the RSE for 18,295,900 is 0.2% (see Table 1: RSE of Estimate). Applying the above formula, the RSE for the percentage of people who had a skilled visa as at November 2013 is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(5.9)^2 - (0.2)^2} = 5.9\%$$

10 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of people aged 15 and over who had a skilled visa as at November 2013 is 0.1 percentage points $((5.9/100) \times 1.3 = 0.1)$. Hence, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of people who had a skilled visa as at November 2013 is between 1.2% and 1.4%, and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is between 1.1% and 1.5%.

DIFFERENCES

11 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (numbers or proportions). Such an estimate is also subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x - y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

12 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or sub populations, it provides a good approximation for the differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

13 A statistical significance test for any comparisons between estimates can be performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between two corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula above. This standard error is then used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\frac{|x - y|}{SE(x - y)}$$

14 If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96 then there is evidence, with a 95% level of confidence, of a statistically significant difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations with respect to that characteristic.

OTHER SOURCES OF ERROR

15 The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and recording by interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error, and they occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or sample. Every effort is made to reduce non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.